

GENERAL CONFERENCE. 1874.

EXTRACTS OF THE JOURNALS
OF THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE
OF THE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN CANADA.

HELD IN THE
TOWN OF NAPANEE, AUG. 26TH TO SEPT. 4TH, 1874.

HAMILTON:

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE C. C. ADVOCATE, 14 JOHN STREET NORTH.

1874.

The EDITH and LORNE PIERCE
COLLECTION of CANADIANA



Queen's University at Kingston

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GENERAL CONFERENCE, 1874.

BISHOP JAMES RICHARDSON, D.D., called the Conference to order at 10 o'clock a. m., Aug. 26th, 1874, and directed the opening religious services. He read Isaiah xlv. and a part of the eighteenth chapter of the Gospel by Mark.

The Conference sang the 237th hymn, beginning, "I love thy kingdom, Lord."

Prayer was offered, led by Revs. W. Benson, T. Argue, A. D. Traveller and the Bishop.

The Conference held in all nineteen sessions. Each session was commenced by reading of the Scriptures, singing and prayer, and closed with the benediction.

To save space, and for convenience, extracts from the Journals are given here by classification, instead of presenting the full records of each session.

There were a number of visitors from other Churches, whose names will not appear. The names of official visitors only will be given.

The venerable Bishop Richardson presided at every session except one.

Bishop Carman presided during one session, which was the only one held after his ordination to the Episcopal office.

The Conference was closed with usual religious services, at 11.30 o'clock, Sep. 4th, 1874.

CONFERENCE OFFICERS.

BISHOPS—James Richardson, D.D., Yorkville, Ont.

“ Albert Carman, M.A., D.D., Belleville, Ont.

SECRETARY—Rev. Michael Benson, Strathroy, Ont.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY—Rev. F. B. Stratton, Picton, Ont.

MEMBERS,

AS ELECTED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE ANNUAL CONFERENCES.

NIAGARA CONFERENCE.

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| E. Lounsbury, | O. G. Collamore, |
| M. Benson, | J. S. Williamson, |
| T. Webster, D. D., | W. G. Brown, |
| J. N. Elliott, | M. Dimmick, |
| S. Card, | J. Gardiner, |
| A. Beamer, | E. Bristol, |
| M. A. Wright, | J. W. Emerick,* |
| R. C. Parsons, | J. Reynolds, |
| W. Benson, | A. E. Griffith, |
| J. McLean, | W. D. Hughson, |
| | S. L. Kerr. |

RESERVES:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| H. B. Palmer, | D. Pomeroy, |
| S. Terwilligar, | W. Fansher. |

ONTARIO CONFERENCE.

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| S. Morrison, | A. Campbell, |
| J. M. Simpson, | G. Jones, |
| A. Carman, M. A., D. D., | R. Sanderson, |
| G. Abbs, | W. Pirritte, |
| J. H. Hilts, | G. Miller, |
| T. Argue, | R. B. Denike, |
| J. Curts, | F. M. Finn. |

RESERVES.

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| W. A. Sills, | C. Taylor, |
| J. C. Pomeroy, | F. M. Smith. |

* J. W. Emerick deceased, H. B. Palmer took his place.

BAY QUINTE CONFERENCE.

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| W. Brown, | H. Williams, |
| B. Lane, B. A., | W. Service, |
| I. B. Aylsworth, M. A., | J. D. Bell, |
| W. H. Graham, | J. H. Andrews. |
| F. B. Stratton, | S. W. LaDu, |
| D. Wilson, | A. D. Traveller, |
| J. Young, | T. W. Pickett, |
| S. G. Stone, | W. Bird. |

RESERVES.

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| F. Chisholm, | J. Ferguson, |
| N. H. Howard, | G. S. White, |

FRATERNAL DELEGATES

FROM THE M. E. CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES.

REV. MOSES HILL, D.D., of Cleveland, and REV. HOMER EATON, of Albany, were duly received and presented their address.

ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

REV. ALBERT CARMAN, M.A., D.D., President of Albert College, was duly elected and ordained Bishop on Friday, Sep. 4th, 1874. His ordination was by Bishop Richardson, assisted by J. Gardiner, M. Benson, E. Lounsbury, S. W. LaDu, F. B. Stratton, T. Webster, J. Curts, G. Abbs, E. Bristol and W. Brown.

REV. SAMUEL G. STONE was elected Editor of the *Canada Christian Advocate*.

REV. JOHN McLEAN, Book Agent.

REV. JAMES GARDINER, Missionary Secretary.

BISHOP A. CARMAN and REV. E. LOUNSBURY were elected Fraternal Delegates to the General Conference of the M. E. Church in the United States.

REVS. J. GARDINER and M. BENSON, Fraternal Delegates to the General Conference of the Methodist Church in Canada.

REV. S. MORRISON elected President of the Sabbath School Union, and REV. J. N. ELLIOTT, Secretary.

TRUSTEES.

TRUSTEES OF THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY:—Messrs. E. S. Whipple, S. M. Thomas, Chas. Lane, and Revs. J. Cardiner, M. A. Wright, J. Curts and D. Wilson.

TRUSTEES FOR BOOK ROOM AND PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT — Messrs. A. Buck, M.D., E. S. Whipple, Rev. E. Bristol, the Presiding Elder of the Niagara District, and the Book Agent.

TRUSTEES OF ALBERT COLLEGE:—Messrs. Caleb B. Mallory, Charles Lane, Samuel Massey, Thomas Anderson, Carnan M. Gould, M. D., Edward Philpott, Levi Massey, Jos. L. Tucker, J. C. Huffman, John Rowe and J. G. Robinson.

ADDITIONAL SENATORS IN ALBERT UNIVERSITY:—Thomas Webster, D.D., and R. C. Clute, LL.B.

OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH EXTENSION SOCIETY.

BISHOP CARMAN, President.

REV. B. LANE, B.A., 1st Vice President.

REV. F. M. FINN, 2nd “ “

REV. J. GARDINER, Corresponding Secretary.

REV. S. WILLIAMSON, Recording Secretary.

BOARD OF MANAGERS—Messrs. J. G. Robinson, R. Hutchinson, C. G. Scott, J. P. Hutton, T. Bell, and Revs. J. Curts, O. G. Collamore, E. Bristol, A. D. Traveller and W. H. Graham.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES.

STANDING AND SPECIAL.

NOMINATIONS—W. Pirritte, S. Morrison, S. G. Stone, W. Bird, J. Gardiner and T. Webster.

EPISCOPACY—T. Webster, D.D., S. Morrison, B. Lane, B.A., J. McLean, W. Pirritte, W. Brown, E. Bristol, A. Campbell, S. G. Stone.

BOUNDARIES—M. Benson, D. Wilson, R. Sanderson.

JOURNALS—G. Abbs, E. Lounsbury, I. B. Aylsworth, M. A.

REVISION—S. W. LaDu, O. G. Collamore, F. B. Stratton, W. G. Brown, A. Carman, D.D.

BOOK ROOM AND PRINTING—S. G. Stone, J. Curts, A. Beamer, W. Benson, G. Jones.

MISSIONS—J. Gardiner, W. G. Brown, M. A. Wright, W. Pirritte, G. Miller, J. D. Bell, W. Bird.

EDUCATION—I. P. Aylsworth, M. A., T. Argue, W. D. Hughson, R. C. Parsons, W. Service.

SABBATH SCHOOLS—J. Reynolds, T. W. Pickett, R. B. Denike.

CHURCH EXTENSION—F. M. Finn, A. E. Griffith, W. Pirritte, A. D. Traveller, J. Reynolds.

LAW QUESTIONS—J. Gardiner, W. Brown, G. Abbs.

STATE OF THE CHURCH—D. Wilson, J. H. Hiltz, S. L. Kerr, J. H. Andrews, J. Young.

FINANCES.—J. M. Simpson, H. Williams, M. Dimmick.

TEMPERANCE—J. N. Elliott, W. H. Graham, H. B. Palmer.

INCORPORATIONS—E. Lounsbury, A. Carman, B. Lane.

ADDRESS TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL—A. Carman, M. Benson, S. G. Stone.

MONUMENTAL FUND—J. Curts, W. Pirritte, S. M. Thomas.

DIVINE SERVICE—B. Lane, J. Curts, E. Bristol, S. G. Stone.

RECEPTION OF FRATERNAL DELEGATES—B. Lane, W. Pirritte, G. Abbs.

TO CORRESPOND WITH REV. DR. J. M. REID, CONCERNING HIS ELECTION TO THE EPISCOPAL OFFICE—The Secretary, T. Webster, W. Pirritte.

BLANK CHURCH FORMS—W. Pirritte, E. Lounsbury, S. W. LaDu.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH SISTER CHURCHES—S. Morrison, B. Lane, T. Webster.

LAY DELEGATION—G. Jones, S. Morrison, J. Gardiner, S. W. LaDu, T. Webster, W. Pirritte, A. Carman, J. N. Elliott, W. H. Graham.

METHODIST UNION (To report to the next General Conference)
 —The Bishops, the Secretary, T. Webster, J. Gardiner, T. B. Brown, S. Morrison, W. Pirritte, S. M. Thomas, D. Wilson, J. H. Andrews, J. C. Huffman.

BOOK COMMITTEE—Anson Buck, M.D., E. S. Whipple, Peter Fisher, Samuel Olmstead.

CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS.

That *Whereas* we have listened with great pleasure and profit to the highly interesting and able addresses of the Rev. Dr. Moses Hill and the Rev. Homer Eaton, who have borne to us the Fraternal Address from the parent body, the M. E. Church in the United States.

Resolved, 1st, That we tender them our warmest thanks, Christian love and gratitude for their presence, words of cheer and fraternal greetings, and pray that God may not only make their visit a mutual blessing, but also make their Church a still greater blessing in the world's amelioration.

2nd, That the Fraternal Address be referred to the Committee on Correspondence with Sister Churches.

Whereas the Rev. Moses Hill, D.D., of Erie Conference, and the Rev. Homer Eaton, of the Troy Conference, Fraternal Delegates to this General Conference from the parent body, are about to take their leave of us,

Resolved, that we now express the high degree of pleasure that we have had in consequence of their visit to us, not only in their official relation, but also for the valuable advice and counsel which their extensive and mature acquaintance with Episcopal Methodism has enabled them to give us; and also for the profitable instructions which their pulpit administrations have afforded us.

*That, inasmuch as the Rev. Dr. J. M. Reid declines to accept the office of Bishop, therefore,

Resolved, that his election is hereby made null and void.

That expenses of Telegrams to Dr. Reid be paid from the Conference Funds.

*Rev. Dr. J. M. Reid was duly elected to the office of Bishop in the M. E. Church in Canada.

That Dr. Carman's salary commence when he assumes the duties of the Episcopal office.

That the Report on Missions be published in the General Missionary Report.

That the salary of the Missionary Secretary be one thousand dollars.

That the next General Conference be held in the town of Belleville, to commence on the fourth Tuesday in August, A.D. 1878, at 10 o'clock, a.m.

That the Secretary and Editor edit the General Conference Journals for publishment.

That the Book Agent publish one thousand copies, and that he distribute eight hundred copies thereof among the preachers, reserving the remainder for sale at the Book Room.

That the Book Agent publish a new edition of our Book of Discipline as soon as practicable.

That the Bishops and Secretary send the necessary items to the Quarterly Conferences for their approval.

That the Secretary and the Editor edit the new edition of the Discipline.

That the Committee to prepare papers for the examination of students in the ministry may revise the Course of Study.

That each Annual Conference see that collections be taken in all the work to meet the expenses of Fraternal Delegates.

That the hearty thanks of this General Conference be given to our highly esteemed friends in Napanee, who have so generously received us to their homes, and have so hospitably entertained the members and visitors attending this Conference, with the assurance that it shall ever be our prayer that God's choicest blessings may remain with them, and that we may meet them in our Father's home in heaven.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES,

AS ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE.

REPORT 2ND—REVISION OF DISCIPLINE.

ITEM 1st—That Sec. 5th, Item 5th, Chap. 1st, Part IV, page 164 be expunged.

ITEM 2nd—That question 2nd with its answer, Part I, Sec. 1st, Chap. 2nd, page 21, be expunged.

ITEM 3rd—That all after the word “children,” in the 2nd Ans., Ques. 7th, Sec. 3rd, Chap. 1st, Part II, page 33, be expunged.

ITEM 4th—That the present answer to Ques. 1st, Chap. 4th, Sec. 1st, Part II, page 69, be expunged, and the question answered as follows :

Each Annual Conference shall elect from among its members two from each district, by and with whose consent the Bishop shall appoint the Presiding Elders.

ITEM 5th—That Ques 5th, Sec. 1st, Chap. 3rd, Part II, page 67, be answered as follows :

According to the judgment of the Bishops, with the concurrence of the Presiding Elders.

ITEM 6th—That Ques. 4th, Sec. 1st, Chap. 4th, Part II, pages 70 and 71 with its answers be expunged.

*ITEM 8th—That in the 2nd Ans. to the question in Sec. 4th, Part IV, Chap. 1st, strike out the word “two,” and insert the words “one or more,” and also strike out the words “to the Committee.”

REPORT NO. 3.—SUBSTITUTE FOR NO. 1.

ITEM 1st—That Clause 2nd, Sec. 9th, Chap. 1st, Part IV, page 168 be expunged.

ITEM 5th—That 7th Clause, Sec. 9th, page 169, be expunged.

ITEM 6th—That the salary of the Book Agent and the Editor be fixed by the General Conference or by a Committee of the Conference for that purpose.

*Items stand numbered as in original Reports, and as adopted.

REPORT NO 5—SUBSTITUTE IN PART FOR NO. 3.

ITEM 1st (To follow 1st Item in Report No. 3.)—There shall be a Book Agent elected by the General Conference, who may be a minister or a layman. If a minister, he shall be at the time of his election and during his office a member of one of our Annual Conferences; and if a layman he must be and remain a member of our Church during the term of office.

ITEM 2nd—There shall be an editor of our connexional journal or journals who shall be elected by the General Conference, and shall at the time of his election and during his term office be a member of one of our annual conferences.

ITEM 3rd—It shall be the duty of the Editor to edit all tracts and books published by authority of the Book Committee or the General Conference, and give such assistance to the Book Agent as he may be able to render; and in the interval of the General Conferences he shall be amenable to the Book Committee for the proper discharge of his official duties.

ITEM 4th—That Clause 4th, page 169 be amended as follows: After the word "agent," in the 3rd paragraph, last line on the page, insert the words "or Editor;" also, after the word "agent," in the 5th line from the top on page 170, insert "or Editor;" also after the word "agency," in the same paragraph, insert the words "or editorship."

ITEM 5th—That Clause 2nd, Sec. 5th, page 162 be so amended as to make the ten per cent. reserved for necessitous cases to be expended annually.

REPORT NO. 4—ON REVISION.

ITEM 1st—That Question 1st, with its answers 1, 2 and 3, in Sec. 4th, page 33, be expunged, and the following substituted:

Ques. 1st.—*What directions shall be given concerning District Conferences?*

Ans. 1st.—There shall be held semi-annually in each District a District Conference, to be composed of all the Travelling and Local Preachers and two delegates, one of whom shall be a Sabbath-

School Superintendent, if possible, from each circuit, mission, or station throughout the District. Said delegates to be elected at the last Quarterly Meeting Conference of each ecclesiastical year.

ITEM 2nd, Ans. 2nd.—The Presiding Elder of each District shall fix the time and place of the first District Conference, after which he shall fix the time and the Conference the place; and he shall preside over its deliberations, provided in the case of his absence, then the Conference shall elect a Travelling Elder president *pro tem*.

ITEM 3rd, Ques. 2nd.—*What shall be the duties of a District Conference?*

Ans. 1st.—To take oversight of all the financial and spiritual affairs of the district, in accordance with the discipline of the Church.

Ans. 2nd.—To take cognizance of all the local preachers in the District, and enquire into the gifts, graces and usefulness of each one by name.

Ans. 3rd.—To license local preachers and renew said licenses; to recommend suitable candidates to the Annual Conference for orders, and for reception on trial in the itinerancy, provided no person shall be so recommended to the Annual Conference without receiving a recommendation from the Quarterly Conference of which he is a member, he having been examined by the presiding officer of said Conference in doctrine and discipline.

Ans. 4th.—To examine all candidates for orders or admission on trial into the travelling ministry.

Ans. 5th.—To give special attention to Sabbath School work, with a view to further its interests.

Ans. 6th.—To look after the Missionary and Church extension work on the district, and act in harmony with other agencies that may be employed.

Ans. 7th.—To provide for literary and other exercises during its own session.

Ans. 8th.—It shall be the duty of each District Conference at its session next preceding each General Conference to elect delegates to the General Conference in a manner provided by discipline.

Ans. 9th.—To hear complaints against, try, suspend, or expel, local preachers in accordance with the discipline as hereinafter specified.

ITEM 4th, Ques. 3rd.—*What farther direction shall be given concerning local preachers?*

The answer to contain all the clauses from 5 inclusive to the end of Sec. 4, page 34, and to be numbered accordingly.

ITEM 5th.—Page 27. Ans. 1st and 2nd.

Ans. 1st.—Add, "An equal number of lay delegates to be elected by the District Conference."

Ans. 2nd.—Add, "Nevertheless, any failure to elect lay delegates, or, a failure on the part of such delegates, when elected, to attend, shall not prevent the General Conference from proceeding to business."

ITEM 6th.—That in Sec. 9th, Ques. 3rd and answer, page 58, shall read,

Ques. 3rd.—*What direction shall be given relative to the examination of probationers and candidates for orders in the travelling ministry?*

Ans.—The Bishops and two Elders called by them to their aid shall prepare a set of questions upon the course of study, and forward the proper number, under seal, to the Presiding Elders before January of the current year.

A committee of two travelling Elders shall be appointed by the District Conference, who shall in conjunction with the Presiding Elder open the questions in presence of the candidates, and be present while the candidates prepare written answers thereto.—The Presiding Elder shall send the questions and answers, under seal, before the first day of the Annual Conference, to a committee of five appointed by the Conference at its previous session.

The Annual Conference Committee shall decide upon and report the value of the several examinations to the Annual Conference.

APPENDIX TO NO. 4.

That all after the word "Conference," in the 1st Paragraph, 4th Clause, 9th Section, 169 Page be expunged, and the following substituted, "and four lay members of our Church who shall be elected by the General Conference, and in case of a vacancy occurring, the Book Committee shall have power to fill such vacancy until the ensuing General Conference.

REVISION NO. 6.

ITEM 1st.—That item 1st, page 166, Sec. 7 be expunged, and the following supplied :

There shall be a Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada, composed of all persons who shall pay one dollar annually to its funds.

(2.) The Board of Management shall consist of a President, who shall be the officiating bishop, three Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, and three laymen who shall be appointed by the General Conference, and one Presiding Elder and one Minister who shall be appointed by each Annual Conference yearly.

(3.) The duty of the Secretary of this society shall be to raise funds, search out and explore new fields, and arrange for their cultivation ; to visit the missions of the Church, and in all proper ways to promote their interests.

(4.) The collection of funds by the Secretary shall not interfere with the Annual Conferences which shall continue to regulate the Sabbath Schools and Churches and their officers in collecting monies, and in no case shall the Secretary be regarded as a substitute for the officers and pastors of the Church in this work.

(5.) The Board shall print and publish the General Report of the Society annually, together with the names of those who have paid one dollar and upwards.

(6.) Whenever the Board shall determine to establish missions

beyond the bounds of an annual conference, it shall pay the expenses of such mission or missions, provided the appropriations already made to the annual conferences be not interfered with.

(7.) The Secretary shall present a report to each of the Annual Conferences of the state of the funds and the amount appropriated to the Conference for the ensuing year.

(8.) The Board shall meet annually in the month of March, or a month preceding the meeting of the first Annual Conference for the year, the Board deciding its own place of meeting.

(9.) That article 2nd, page 166, be amended by adding the following:

But shall pay all its funds to the treasurer of the Society, except the Niagara Conference, which may retain eighteen per cent. of its actual income to pay its existing debentures, and as soon as they shall have been fully paid, that Conference shall likewise pay all its funds to the Society.

Article 3 shall be numbered 10.

Article 4, page 166, shall be amended by striking out the word "auxiliary," and numbering it 11.

Articles 5th, 6th and 7th of same Section shall be expunged.

(12.) It shall be the duty of the secretary of each Conference Auxiliary to forward annually to the Secretary of the Society a list of all subscribers.

(13.) The Board shall require regular quarterly communications to be made by each of the missionaries on the respective missions to the Secretary of the Society, giving information of the state and prospects of the various missions in which they are employed.

(14.) Every person paying five dollars annually shall be entitled to an Annual Report, and any one presenting a donation of twenty-five dollars shall be a life member.

(15.) The Board shall fill vacancies during the interim of the General Conference.

REPORT NO 7.

ITEM 1st.—That Ques. 3rd, Sec. 1st, Part IV, page 160, with its answers be expunged, and the following substituted :

Ques. 3rd.—*What shall we do for the moral and religious instruction of our children ?*

Ans. 1st.—It shall be the duty of each Presiding Elder to bring the subject of Sabbath Schools before the last Quarterly Conference of each year, and this Quarterly Conference shall appoint a committee of not less than three or more than nine, who shall be members of our Church, and shall be called the committee on Sabbath Schools. The preacher in charge shall be chairman. The committee shall aid the preachers and officers of Sabbath Schools in procuring suitable teachers, securing the attendance of children on Sabbath Schools and public worship, and in raising monies to meet the expenses of Sabbath Schools. The preacher, superintendent, and committee shall decide on the books to be used in our Schools.

Ans. 2nd.—It shall be the special duty of the preacher in charge, aided by the other preachers and the Committee on Sabbath Schools to see that Sabbath Schools are organized in all our congregations, and if but ten children can be found, to organize them into a School, said School to be auxiliary to the Sabbath School Union of the M. E. Church ; to secure the co-operation of as many of our members as possible ; to visit the Schools as often as practicable ; to preach on the subject of Sabbath Schools and religious instruction in each congregation once in six months ; and to form Bible Classes wherever they can, and when they cannot superintend them personally, to see that suitable teachers are provided for that purpose.

Ans. 3rd.—It shall be the duty of preachers to enforce faithfully upon parents and teachers the great importance of instructing children in the doctrines and duties of our holy religion ; to see that our catechisms be used in all our Sabbath Schools and families ; and to preach to the children and catechise them in the schools and public meetings appointed for that purpose.

Ans. 4th.—It shall be the duty of the preacher in his pastoral work to speak to the children personally on the subject of experi-

mental and practical godliness, and so pray earnestly for them, and diligently exhort the parents to dedicate their children to the Lord in baptism as early as practicable.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE ON EPISCOPACY AS ADOPTED.

The Committee on Episcopacy beg leave to submit Report No. 1, containing the following recommendations:

1st—That the Episcopacy be strengthened by the addition of one man.

2nd—That we proceed at once to the election of a Bishop.

REPORT ON EPISCOPACY NO. 2, ADOPTED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE.

1st—After careful inquiry by the members of this Committee, representing the several Conferences, into the administration of our esteemed Bishop, no cause of complaint therewith is found. Your Committee also find that his character is unsullied and his ministerial reputation untarnished.

2nd—We gratefully acknowledge the goodness of God signified to us in the preservation of the life of our venerable Superintendent during another quadrennial term, and in the continuance unto him of such strength of body and vigor of mind as have enabled him to discharge to universal satisfaction the duties of his high station. We pray that he may long be spared to the Church of God and to the world, and that the influence of his life through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ may abide a perpetual benediction upon the Church in which he has so long lived and faithfully labored.

REPORT NO. 3.

1st—That the salary of the Bishop be twelve hundred dollars per annum.

2nd—That he be allowed one hundred and fifty dollars per annum for travelling expenses.

Signed,

THOMAS WEBSTER, *Chairman.*

B. LANE, *Secretary.*

*REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS, NO. 1, WITH
APPENDIX.

(NO. 2 APPEARS IN REPORTS ON REVISION.)

1st—That the mission work of the Church needs to be strengthened and enlarged.

2nd—It is therefore recommended that the administration in this department of the Church be changed, so as to place the business under the care and management of the Missionary Society.

3rd—The Board of Missions shall be competent to appropriate the amount to be expended by each Annual Conference, and to state the amount expected from each Conference as annual contributions to the funds. All the appropriations and disbursements to be determined by the Board.

4th—That we recommend the election of a Missionary Secretary, to raise funds ; search out and explore new fields, and arrange for their cultivation ; to visit the missions of the Church, and in all proper ways to promote their interests. The collection of funds by the Secretary shall not interfere with the Annual Conferences, which shall continue to regulate the Sabbath-schools and Churches and their officers in collecting monies, and in no case shall the Secretary be regarded as a substitute for the officers and pastors of the Church in this work.

MISSIONARY BOARD :

REV. W. D. HUGHSON, 1st Vice President.

“ S. G. STONE, 2nd “ “

“ S. MORRISON, 3rd “ “

Editor of *C. C. Advocate*, Secretary.

REV. M. A. WRIGHT, Treas.

MESSRS. DR. A. BUCK, J. C. HUFFMAN, J. R. NEFF, Members.

*The usual introductions and closings of Reports are omitted.

COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

FIRST PART APPEARS IN REPORT ON REVISION.

CONSTITUTION FOR SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Art. 1st—This Society shall be called the Sabbath School Society of———, auxiliary to the Sabbath School Union of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and connected with the Quarterly Meeting Conference of———Circuit. It shall consist of the Preacher in charge, Officers and Teachers, and Sabbath School Committee appointed by the Quarterly Board.

2nd—The object of this Society shall be to sustain a Sabbath School at———.

Art. 3rd—The officers shall be a Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, (a female Superintendent when necessary) Secretary, Treasurer and Librarian, who shall be elected annually by ballot.

Art. 4—Teachers shall be nominated by the Superintendent, with the concurrence of the pastor, on their entering the School, and elected by the Society one month after.

Art. 5th—Regular meetings of this Society shall be held on———of each month, for the transaction of such business as relates to the interests of the Society and School, at which the following order shall be observed :

(1.) Singing and prayer ; (2.) Calling the roll ; (3.) Reading minutes ; (4.) Unfinished business ; (5.) Reports of Committees ; (6.) Report from Superintendent ; (7.) Report from Treasurer ; (8.) Report of the Librarian, concerning the state of the library, the number and kind of periodicals taken ; (9.) Report from Sabbath School Committee ; (10.) Reports from Teachers ; (11.) Miscellaneous.

Ans. 6th—At all meetings for business———shall constitute a quorum.

Art. 7.—A special meeting of the Society may be called by the Superintendent or by any three of the members.

Art. 8—In cases of withdrawal of persons from the school they cease to be members of this Society, and any member of this Society habitually neglecting duty or being guilty of improper conduct may be expelled by a two-thirds vote of the Society.

Art. 9th—Vacancies may be filled at any monthly or special meeting, one month's notice having been given of the election.

Art. 10—This Constitution shall not be altered except by a two-thirds vote of all the members present at a meeting called for that purpose.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON LAY DELEGATION.

1st—The General Conference shall be composed of an equal number of Lay and Clerical Delegates.

2nd—The Lay and Clerical Delegates shall deliberate in a body, as peers, and vote as one body, and not by orders.

3rd—The bases for the election of Lay Delegates shall be the number of members in the Church.

4th—The Lay Delegates shall be elected by the several District Conferences next preceding the General Conference from among those members of the Church who are and have been in good standing for the four years immediately preceding the election.

5th—The number of Lay Delegates to be elected by each District shall be determined by the Bishop, according to the number of members at the last official return.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

Your Committee to whom was referred the Educational interests of our Church, beg leave to report as follows :

1st—That during the past four years there has been a satisfactory increase in the prosperity of our Educational Institutions. The unabated interest manifested by the Faculty has given the

College an important position in our country, and indicates for it an apparently successful future. This may be attributed, under the Divine blessing, to the faithful and earnest efforts of the President and Faculty.

2nd—The financial Department exhibits the working of a sound policy which recommends itself to the confidence of the people.

Statement of College Collections :

| 1871 | 1872 | 1873 | 1874 |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| \$776.04 | \$1048.50 | \$1333.63 | \$1599.52 |

Statement of Amt. Assets over and above all liabilities, \$30-405.88.

3rd—We ask that encouraging assistance and support be given the Treasurer in the carrying out and completion of the present Endowment Scheme so successfully commenced. We tender our thanks to the Treasurer, J. G. Robinson, Esq., for the undertaking of so arduous a work, and cordially recommend him in this work to the members and friends of the Church.

Statement of Endowment Fund :

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Total amount of subscription to date, | \$25,608.00 |
| Amount settled by cash or note, | 21,313.00 |
| Amount remaining uncollected, | 4,295.00 |
| Amount received as interest from loans, | 289.46 |
| Amount of Interest due and not yet paid, | 175.00 |

Your Committee would submit the following recommendations :

1st—That the raising of ten cents per member, by annual collections, be strictly adhered to.

2nd—The appointment of R. C. Clute, LL.B, of Belleville, and Rev. Thomas Webster, D.D., to be members of the Senate.

3rd—The appointment of the following persons to constitute the Board of Trustees :

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Caleb B. Mallory, Esq., | Edward Philpott, Esq., |
| Charles Lane, Esq., | Levi Massey, Esq., |
| Samuel Massey, Esq., | Jos. L. Tucker, Esq., |
| Thomas Anderson, Esq., | Jas. C. Huffman, Esq., |
| Carman M. Gould, Esq., | John Rowe, Esq., |
| J. G. Robinson, Esq. | |

4th—We believe the employment of persons who are members of our own Church in the Faculty of the University would give greater satisfaction to our people and afford better opportunities for the development of our own men, and we recommend this matter to the favorable consideration of the Board of Management.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Signed,

I. B. AYLSWORTH, *Chairman of Com.*

R. C. PARSONS, *Secretary.*

REPORT ON CHURCH EXTENSION.

The Committee on Church Extension beg leave to submit the following Report :

That in the opinion of your Committee the circumstances of our Church and the necessities of our work call loudly for some special and specific measures by which our Church may be extended, and weak and struggling societies be aided in the erection of suitable houses of worship ; and to establish our cause in the towns and cities throughout this Dominion. Your Committee believe that the creation of a Church Extension Society will meet this demand.

They therefore recommend this General Conference to proceed at once to form such a Society.

The Committee respectfully propose the following Constitution for the government of such an Association :

ARTICLE I.

This Association shall be called the "Church Extension Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada," and organized for the purpose of assisting the several Annual Conferences to extend and establish our cause throughout the Dominion of Canada, by aiding wherever most needed to secure suitable sites for houses of worship, and such other Church property as may promote our general design.

ARTICLE II.

The payment of one dollar shall constitute a member for one year, and the payment of ten dollars at one time shall constitute a member for life.

Any person paying one hundred dollars at one time into the treasury shall be an honorary manager, and shall be entitled to a seat and the right of speaking, but not of voting, in the Board of Managers. All monies coming into the treasury of this Society shall be used in aid of Church Extension, under the direction of the Board, and a record of the work accomplished thereby shall be kept by the Corresponding Secretary.

ARTICLE III.

The officers of this Society shall be a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and a Recording Secretary.

ARTICLE IV.

The management and disposition of the affairs and property of this Society shall be vested in a Board of Managers, consisting of five laymen, all being members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and five travelling ministers, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, all of whom shall be elected at the annual meeting—the first Board to be appointed by the General Conference.

ARTICLE V.

The Corresponding Secretary shall be appointed by the General Conference. He shall conduct the correspondence of the So-

ciety, under the direction of the Board. Should a vacancy occur by death, resignation, or otherwise, the Board shall have power to provide for the office until the next ensuing General Conference.

ARTICLE VI.

The annual meeting of the Board shall be held in the month of June in each year, in the town of Belleville, and shall have authority to appoint all the officers required by this Constitution, except as required in article 5, and to make by-laws for regulating its own proceedings, to fill vacancies that may occur in its own body, and lay before the General Conference a Report of its transactions for the four preceding years, and the state of its funds.

ARTICLE VII.

At all meetings of the Society and of the Board, the President or, in his absence, the Vice President first on the list then present, and in the absence of all the Vice Presidents, a member appointed by the meeting for that purpose, shall preside.

ARTICLE VIII.

Ten members at each meeting of the Society and five at each meeting of the Board of Managers shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE IX.

In order to be entitled to any of the funds of this Society, each Annual Conference shall at each session appoint a Board composed of equal numbers of ministers and laymen, consisting of President, Secretary and Treasurer, and not less than three additional members, so located that a quorum may be convened at any time.— Said Board shall have authority to adopt by-laws not inconsistent with this Constitution, and shall, under the direction of the Parent Board, have charge of all the interests and work of Church extension within the bounds of the Conference. It shall, in connection with the Conference, take all necessary measures to procure liberal annual collections from each congregation in the Conference, and special donations and bequests to the funds of the Society. It shall carefully examine all applications for aid from within the bounds of the Conference, and recommend only such as are found to be

needy and meritorious. It shall keep a faithful record of all its proceedings, and an account of amounts asked and received each year from each pastoral charge; and the Treasurer of said Board shall remit all funds in his hands to the Treasurer of the Parent Society at least once in three months. An Annual Conference failing to comply with the provisions of this article shall forfeit all claims upon the funds of the Society.

ARTICLE X.

All applications for aid from the funds of this Society shall set forth,

(1.) The number of Church members, Sabbath-school children and congregation to be accommodated; the population of the place, and prospects of growth.

(2.) The location, size, present and prospective value of the site, the validity of the title, and whether held in trust for the Methodist Episcopal Church.

(3.) A description of the building to which the aid, if granted, will be applied, and, if required, a copy of the plans and specifications of the architect shall be remitted, and, if deemed necessary by the Parent or Conference Board, modified as may be suggested.

(4.) The estimate and probable cost when completed, the available resources and amount of reliable subscription, with the amount of debt, if any, that may be allowed to remain against the property, and how soon the trustees or others will agree to remove it.

(5.) Is the property insured? Will it be? And to what amount?

(6.) Whether the Church if aided will become self-sustaining, and to what extent it may be expected to aid in the general work of God.

And any additional facts and circumstances that may assist the Board to a proper decision on the application.

Every such application for aid shall be first submitted to the Conference Board, and said Board shall certify its action thereon to

the Parent Board, and aid shall be granted only by concurrent action of the Conference and Parent Boards ; provided, however, that in any case in which such Conference Board is not created or cannot act, the Bishop having charge, or a committee by him appointed, may perform the duties herein imposed upon the Conference Board.

ARTICLE XI.

This Constitution shall not be altered or amended but by the General Conference, upon the recommendation of the Board of Managers, or by the Board upon the recommendation of the General Conference.

REPORT ON PRINTING AND BOOK ROOM.—NO. 1.

To the Bishops and Members of the General Conference,—

Your Committee on Printing and Book Room submit the following :

In the absence of a Report from Book Room Committee, embracing the aggregate Quadrennial Statement, we have not been able to make a complete Report.

In the Book Record we find no statement of liabilities and assets for 1870, hence we make our Report from the Statement to the General Conference of 1870, and embrace the aggregate as given in the Reports to the Annual Conferences.

The financial statement is annexed.

In submitting this Report your Committee would,

(1.) Commend the cash system advised by the last General Conference, and from the marked improvement in the financial department would urge the continuance of the same.

(2.) We recommend the enlargement of the *C. C. Advocate*, and the printing of less advertisements, so far as practicable.

With pleasure we record the success that has attended the management of the office by the Agent, Rev. James Gardiner, during the last four years, in relieving it from long standing embarrassment.

Signed, { S. G. STONE, *Chairman*.
W. BENSON.
G. JONES.
J. CURTS.
A. BEAMER, *Secretary*.

Napanee, Sep. 1874.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE BOOK CONCERN AND PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Receipts for the year 1870-71 | 8389.48 |
| " " " " 1871-72 | 8581.04 |
| " " " " 1872-73 | 9887.95 |
| " " " " 1873-74 | 9757.97 |
| Total receipts to March 1st, 1874 | \$36616.44 |

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Disbursements for the year 1870-71 | 7622.59 |
| " " " " 1871-72 | 7339.37 |
| " " " " 1872-73 | 8755.91 |
| " " " " 1873-74 | 7660.52 |
| Total disbursements, | \$31378.39 |
| Gross profits for four years, | \$5238.05 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Reported Capital of the Concern, 1874, | 7290.00 |
| " " " " " 1870, | 3971.93 |
| Increase in Capital, | \$3318.07 |
| Difference between gross profits and Increase in Capital, | \$1919.98 |

From a summary, furnished by the Editor, of the business of the Book Room and Printing Establishment, from the 1st of March last to the 25th of August, we gather the following :

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| Merchandise bought, | 3322.82 | |
| New materials for office, | 468.97 | \$3771.79 |
| Merchandise sold, | 2051.90 | |
| Job Work done in office, | 508.29 | |
| Advertisements admitted, | 499.86 | \$3060.05 |
| | | <hr/> |
| Difference, Sales and Purchases, | | \$711.74 |

CASH ACCOUNT.

1874

| | | |
|---|---------|---------|
| March 1, Cash in deposit in office, | 1006.78 | |
| " " " received since, as per Cash Book, | 3341.03 | |
| " " " " in Book Room | 2109.97 | 6457.78 |

CONTRA.

| | | |
|---|---------|-----------|
| " " By deficit in Book Room cash acc't, | 398.08 | |
| " " By payments since on Book Room acc't, | 1144.74 | |
| " " " " " Office acc't, | 3779.54 | 5322.36 |
| | | <hr/> |
| Cash balance in hand, | | \$1135.42 |

STATEMENT OF BILLS MATURING.

| | | |
|--------------|--------|-----------|
| To Campbell, | 297.84 | |
| To Otis, | 965.02 | |
| To Buntin, | 719.67 | \$1982.53 |

STOCK ACCOUNT.

| | | |
|-------------------|----------|-----------|
| March 1, Assets, | 11235.58 | |
| " " Liabilities, | 4045.32 | |
| | | <hr/> |
| Excess of Assets, | | \$7190.26 |

LIABILITIES NOT INCLUDED IN THE ABOVE ACCOUNT.

| | |
|---|----------|
| Rev. James Gardiner, Note and Int., Joint Stock and Int. | 80.00 |
| Centenary Superannuated Fund, about | 170.00 |
| Barnes, on Note, | 115.00 |
| Note and Int. to E. Bristol for Preachers' Relief Society, Niagara Conference, | 346.50 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$711.50 |

REPORT NO. 2, ON PRINTING AND BOOK ROOM.

1st—That the salary of the Editor be one thousand dollars per annum and moving expenses.

2nd—That the salary of the Book Agent be one thousand dollars per annum and moving expenses.

3rd—That the year and salaries commence on the 1st day of October next.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

We, your Committee on Temperance, beg to report—

(1.) That while we recognize the grand importance of evangelical truth, and believe that no power save the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ in the soul is adequate to the great work of lifting man up from the grave of sin and shame into which he has fallen, we cannot fail to see that there are many collateral agencies of moral reform worthy of our support and sympathy, and through which we may legitimately and successfully work for the good of humanity.

(2.) That we believe it to be the duty of the Church, as we as a branch of God's Zion have done in the past, to take a noble and prominent stand in the defense of the principles of Total Abstinence and Prohibition.

(3.) We would urge upon our people the importance of union of purpose and effort in this great work, and we would recommend that all our Church members identify themselves with all judicious means and measures inaugurated to secure the prohibition by law of the manufacture of, and traffic in, intoxicating drinks, especially in the proper use of their suffrages at the polls.

(4.) We would most earnestly call upon the members and friends of our Church to put forth every lawful effort to inculcate

the business of
the 1st of March

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7 \$3771.79
0
9
6 \$3060.05
\$711.74

3.78
1.03
9.97 6457.78

8.08
4.74
9.54 5322.36
\$1135.42

.84
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.67 \$1982.53

11235.58
4045.32
\$7190.26

ACCOUNT.

d Int. 80.00
170.00
115.00
society, 346.50
\$711.50

these principles of Total Abstinence and Prohibition in the minds of the children, and thus raise up a barrier between the unpolluted lips and the intoxicating cup. And to this end we would recommend that public meetings be held for this purpose in connection with our Sabbath-schools, the introduction of the pledge among our Sabbath-school scholars, and a judicious selection of some of the many excellent temperance publications now to be found in our country, to be placed in our Sabbath-school libraries.

JNO. N. ELLIOTT.

W. H. GRAHAM.

H. B. PALMER, *Secretary*.

REPORT ON STATE OF CHURCH.

Your Committee on the State of the Church beg leave, in the first place, to refer to our religious and spiritual condition; and we speak of this because we think the spiritual interests of any denomination are of paramount importance.

During the four years intervening since the last General Conference, the M. E. Church in Canada has been favored with gracious revivals of religion.

The membership has co-operated with God's chosen servants, and pastors and people have lived and labored for the conversion of souls, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and they have not toiled in vain. God has given the increase. We speak not without warrant as to the religious and spiritual growth of our Zion, for our eyes have seen, and our hearts felt, and we have read in our denominational organ that God is with us *now*, as in former days. And while we have to deplore spiritual lethargy and want of zeal in some, yet God has not forsaken us, but is with us as a people to justify, regenerate, sanctify, and impart all the gifts of the Holy Ghost. Numbers have left our militant hosts and passed to higher fellowships and joys, yet, while our ranks have been broken and many have passed to the land of rest, yet it is a fact that gives us great pleasure that the ranks have been filled up, for sinners have

been converted, backsliders reclaimed, the cold and lukewarm have been stirred up, so that we report a constant increase in numbers. Altogether, we have cause for abundant rejoicing, for we can take up the triumphant language of David, "God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, and that right early." Your Committee therefore believe the religious condition of the Church to be healthy, giving large hope of success and extension in the not distant future.

The financial state of our denominational institutions is improving, and the stipends paid to our ministers, while in many instances not in proportion to the increase in the cost of living, yet our people are disposed to devise liberal things.

The Educational Institutions of our Church were never in their past history as prosperous as they are now. Albert and Alexandra Colleges are doing a noble work in the cultivation of our youth, and we have great confidence in the success of these institutions under the wise and efficient direction of our able and learned President Carman.

The Printing Press and Book Room are in such a state, under the wise management of our Editor and Book Agent, that the outlook is most cheering, and augurs well for the future.

It is the opinion of your Committee that our people are perfectly satisfied with the polity and usages of our Church, and cherish most ardently a pure, Scriptural Episcopacy as found among us. We believe our prospects were never brighter than at present, and there are open doors for usefulness which we should not be slow to enter.

With the past to encourage, the present to cheer, and the future large with hope, we thank God and take courage.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

D. WILSON, *Chairman.*

J. H. ANDREWS.

S. L. KERR.

W. A. SILLS.

J. YOUNG, *Secretary.*

REPORT ON JOURNALS.

The Committee on Journals beg leave to report,

That they have examined the Journals of the Niagara, Ontario, and Bay of Quinte Conferences, and, as far as capable of judging, find nothing therein requiring the action of this Conference.

We may note the fact, however, that the Stations of the Preachers are not always journalized by the Secretary of the Bay of Quinte Conference, which omission, in the estimation of your Committee, is a defect.

Signed,

G. ABBS.

I. B. AYLSWORTH.

REPORT ON INCORPORATIONS.

1st—That the Missionary Society, and Book Room and Printing Establishment of the M. E. Church in Canada be incorporated.

2nd—That the Committee on the Book Room and Printing, and the Committee on Missions make provision in their Report for the appointment of Trustee Boards, according to the Statute, to secure the incorporation of the above named societies.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MONUMENTAL FUND.

The Committee to whom was referred the subject of a Monument for Bishop Smith beg leave to report as follows :

1st—That it is deeply to be regretted that there has been so much delay in the completion of this work, chiefly arising from misunderstanding respecting the cost of such monument.

2nd—We would therefore recommend that the Executive Committee do not exceed the sum of three hundred dollars in its erection.

3rd—Your Committee would also recommend, as the Treasurer's Report shows \$117.65 collected, that the Executive Committee wait for three months for further returns, then proceed to erect the monument with whatever they may have on hand.

4th—We further recommend that the Pastor of Brooklin Station, Revs. W. Pirritte, J. Curts, and Messrs. S. M. Thomas, T. Wilson and L. Foster be the Executive Committee.

5th—That each preacher be requested to contribute one dollar.

REPORT ON LAW QUESTIONS.

The Committee on Law Questions present their Report :

QUES. 1st—Do the taking of extra-judicial oaths, that is, oaths administered by persons not magistrates or not legally empowered to administer such oaths, contravene the 25th Article of Religion as found on the 13th page of our Book of Discipline ; and are the taking of such oaths contrary to the teaching of the Scriptures ?

ANS.—All oaths must be taken and administered before the magistrate or person legally empowered to administer such oaths. No others are known to your Committee, or contemplated in the Article.

QUES. 2nd—When a member leaves the M. E. Church regularly by letter, who is a trustee, and sees fit, after a time, to return to the Church and deposit his letter, does this restore him to the office of trusteeship, or will he have to be appointed regularly as the Discipline directs ?

ANS.—If the letter implies a withdrawal from the Church, we answer, No. If his absence be brief, and the place has not been filled, and the letter implies removal from one circuit to another only, and he deposits the same letter, we answer, Yes ; otherwise he must be re-appointed.

QUES. 3rd—Is it competent for a member of an Annual Conference to vote by letter or telegraph on any question in Conference when he has not been present at the seat of Conference, or, having been present, has gone from the seat of Conference?

ANS. 3rd—We find no law in the Discipline bearing on the question, but would recommend that an item for insertion therein be presented through the Committee on Revision to provide that no person shall be permitted to vote unless present at the seat of Conference.

QUES. 4th—Does the first item in the duties of a class-leader, page 15 of the Discipline, require no more of a leader than to be at the place and at the time where and when his class meets, whether each member thereof be present or not?

ANS.—Yes. Should any member of his class not be present at the class-meeting, it is the duty of the leader to see him by visiting or otherwise.

QUES. 5th—Is it necessary that a trustee shall live within the bounds of the charge where the Church for which he is a trustee is located?

ANS.—No. See answer to Ques. 4, page 178, of the Discipline. It is not necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

J. GARDINER.
GEO. ABBS.

Committee Rooms, Napanee, Sep. 1st, 1874.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON METHODIST UNION.

Your Committee assembled at the residence of Bishop Richardson in Feb., 1871, and prepared an outline to be considered for the basis of Union. It subsequently met with "Union Committees" of the Wesleyan, New Connexion, and Primitive Methodists, in Toronto. As no similar preparation had been made by the other

bodies, and they admitted the obligations they were under to the English Conferences respectively, a second meeting was held by the Committees of the Churches in March, 1871, which adjourned without any appointment for a future meeting.

The actions of the several Conferences ensuing led to a new course by some of the negotiating parties; but no subsequent meeting was called, to which your Committee considered itself invited, or at liberty to attend. With the action of the other branches we have, therefore, had no association or connection since the foregoing date.

We firmly consider a pure and godly unifying of Methodism highly desirable, and therefore recommend the General Conference to appoint a Committee to consider and formulate a basis of Union with the Methodists of the Dominion, or of the Continent, or any branch or section thereof; and to authorize the Bishops to unite in any joint call that may be made for such purpose.

Your Committee have observed with satisfaction the firm and unshaken devotion of the membership of the Church to the great constitutional principles of our Methodism, and sincerely trust they may continue to maintain their fidelity.

We also recommend this General Conference to prepare and send by a fraternal delegation to the first General Conference of the United Wesleyan Methodist Church, to assemble in Toronto on the 16th of the present month, a brotherly greeting.

J. GARDINER, *Secretary.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON BOUNDARIES.

1st—That they have carefully considered the present boundaries of the several Annual Conferences.

2nd—That they recommend that the boundaries of the Annual Conferences remain as fixed by the last General Conference.

FRATERNAL ADDRESSES.

ADDRESS

OF THE M. E. CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES TO
THE M. E. CHURCH IN CANADA.

TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH IN CANADA:—

Fathers and Brethren:—At the session of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States, held in Brooklyn, in May, 1872, we received, among many others, your brotherly Christian salutations. The various members of the great Methodist family have long been in the habit of interchanging with each other these periodical greetings. It will please you to learn that the General Assembly of the Presbyterians, so long divided and now so happily united, sent to our General Conference a distinguished deputation, bearing their fraternal regards. It is a beautiful and welcome sign of the growing catholicity of the age that Protestant bodies, even those of the same name, that so long and so jealously stood apart from each other, are now drawn together by the cords of fraternity. We desire on this occasion to return with interest your hearty congratulations in the measure of success granted by Almighty God to our various labors. We are gratified, but not unduly flattered, we humbly trust, by your kindly mention of our labors.

We also rejoice in your works and their abundant fruits, your evangelical preaching, your accumulation of material means, and your successful direction of the spiritual forces placed at human command by our kind heavenly Father for the regeneration of the world. We rejoice in your material and spiritual growth, your rapid increase in churches, parsonages, schools, and facilities for higher education. It is needless for us to recount to you our own advance in this direction. Elegant churches are springing up

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throughout all our borders, and colleges and literary institutions are being richly endowed with unprecedented rapidity. Revivals of religion are as common and as wide-spread as ever before, and we are endeavoring, both preachers and people, "to mind the same things and walk by the same rules" observed by the fathers.

The next notable feature of our session in 1872 was the incorporation of the lay element into the supreme general council of the Church. The measure is experimental. It has wrought well thus far, the laity and clergy sitting and deliberating together harmoniously. We trust that future years will demonstrate the wisdom of the measure, and that it will eventuate to the good of the Church and the glory of God. Our General Superintendency, weakened by the death of four incumbents since the General Conference of 1868, has again been strengthened by the election and ordination of eight of the most talented and pious men among us. Questions of radical change were agitated during our session, such as making Presiding Elders elective, and greatly reducing their number, of omitting the ordination of Bishops, districting their work, and giving equal rank in office to Book Agents and to Missionary Secretaries. Some of these changes were adopted, but our usual motto is, "Hasten slowly;" we inquire after the old landmarks, and adhere to a wise and just conservatism. We are by no means afraid of changes. It is the soul and essence of progress.—The vital principle of Methodism from the beginning has been adaptations—using all appliances, rejecting nothing new simply because it is new, retaining nothing old simply because it is old. We try to advance with the age, and to make the multiform machinery of modern times subserve the cause of truth and the glory of God. The visits and addresses of your representatives, especially of your venerable superintendent, Bishop Richardson, afforded us high gratification. It were not, perhaps, too much to hope that, ere another four years shall elapse, the various Methodist brotherhoods of Canada shall have united into one, and that we in the United States shall have followed your glorious example, so that the one United Methodism of the United States shall receive but a single fraternal deputation from the one united Methodism of Canada.—Such a consummation were devoutly to be hoped and prayed for in behalf of the Church, both nations, and a perishing world. It is

high time that Christian Churches turned upon the strongholds of sin those batteries that have been so long leveled at each other.

We have appointed Reverend Moses Hill and Reverend Homer Eaton to bear our fraternal greetings to you.

EDMUND S. JANES.

GEORGE W. WOODRUFF,
Secretary of the General Conference,
M. E. Church.

ADDRESS

OF THE M. E. CHURCH IN CANADA TO THE M. E.
CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES.

TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES :

Fathers and Brethren :—Permit us, through this address, to convey to you our kindly salutations, and to express the fraternal affection that begets in us an unfeigned desire to perpetuate the Christian harmony and fellowship that now exist between us. We recognize our duty to love all men, and especially all who are of the household of faith, yet we feel ourselves especially in sympathy with those who hold in common with us the polity of Episcopal Methodism. The information furnished by your honored delegates of your success in the world's great harvest field not only gratified, but moved us to devout thankfulness on your behalf.

We joy and rejoice with you that God so highly honors and so abundantly blesses your labors consecrated to the sublime task of subjugating the world for Christ. As in the past so in the future, it shall bring gladness to our hearts to learn that, as a Church, you are still achieving glorious victories in all lands for our common manhood and our common Master. The increased liberality of your people, manifested in their generous contributions in response to the calls of your Missionary Society, Church Extension Society, and other departments of your religious work, for aid, most certainly indicate the loyalty of your friends to the Church and Christ. Hav-

ing vast material resources at your command, an earnest and enterprising membership, and a ministry whose hearts are on fire of the Holy Ghost, we feel confident that you will continue to play a conspicuous part in the evangelization of the race.

We note with great delight the growing spirit of catholicity among the Churches, and the almost universal desire to lessen and remove the causes of difference between the various religious denominations. Your kindly expressed wish that the breaches in Canadian Methodism might be healed is fully appreciated, and, as in former days, so now, we are in readiness for a speedy adjustment of the differences between us on equitable terms. Permit us also to hope that the same most desirable result may find a happy consummation among the Methodisms of your own land.

At our last General Conference the event of chief interest was the introduction of the lay element into our legislative body. Regarding Methodism as a creature of Providence, we hold ourselves prepared to follow the guidance thereof, and to adapt our polity to the necessities of the times, that we may the more effectually accomplish, under God, the work assigned us.

We are gratified to inform you that our resources for the performance of our work are multiplying upon our hands. Our people are more generously than ever before responding to all demands made upon their Christian liberality. Convenient and elegant churches are being built in the towns and in rural sections of the country. Our educational institutions, while not increased in numbers, are greatly increased in capabilities to furnish to the youth of the Church and land a sound, thorough, and liberal education.

The missionary spirit more generally pervades the Church, and begets a constantly increasing purpose not only to sustain our home missions, but to go beyond our present limits, and, with sister denominations, share in the toils incident to the bringing of all men to Christ, that we may also share in the honor of the final, the crowning victory of the Church of the Most High. But the most pleasing fact we have to communicate is this: a well determined purpose on the part of our ministry and membership to retain

among us the enthusiasm and earnestness in religious life characteristic of primitive Methodism. We believe the work in hand to be divine, and that for its successful accomplishment divine love must kindle the heart and divine peace energize the soul. In the old paths we will walk, and, living under the baptismal influences of the Holy Ghost, we feel assured of continued and more abundant prosperity.

Permit us to express the great pleasure afforded us through the visit of your honored delegates, the Rev. Moses H. and the Rev. Homer Eaton, and the desire that at the session of our next General Conference we may be privileged to greet another delegation from your venerable body.

We commend to your fraternal regard our much esteemed brethren and delegates to your General Assembly, the Rev. Dr. Carman, junior Bishop of the Church, and the Rev. E. Lounsbury.

JAMES RICHARDSON.

MICHAEL BENSON.

Secretary of the General Conference.

M. E. Church in Canada.

ADDRESS

OF THE M. E. CHURCH IN CANADA TO HIS EXCEL-
LENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

To His Excellency, etc., etc.,—

The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada, the regularly constituted legislative assembly of the Church, in General Conference assembled, would most respectfully approach Your Excellency with pledges of respect for Your Excellency's person and administration, and assurances of loyal attachment to the throne and government of the empire whose noble Queen it is Your Excellency's chief honor to represent among us. We heartily congratulate Your Excellency upon the general prosperity of the affairs of the Dominion under your direction, and upon the peace, prosperity and contentment of all our people. We sincerely believe that the freedom of Your Excellency's intercourse

with the people is highly conducive to the public good and the social improvement of all classes, and we hail with delight your encouragement by association, patronage, precept and example of the educational, moral and religious institutions of the land.

In the discharge of our solemn duties as religious instructors we feel the profoundest satisfaction in Her Majesty's government that secures to all our fellow-subjects entire freedom of conscience, and the full exercise of religious rights. Without civil constraint or interference we may proclaim the great doctrines of religion as we hold them, and thus contribute our share to the moral bulwarks of the nation, raising ramparts against vice and fortifying the virtue of the people. We feel confident that the fear of God and the love of right and truth in the hearts of our fellow-subjects must confirm their loyalty, establish more securely the State and the throne, and bring upon us more abundantly the blessings of order and good government. Wherefore, seeking no civil advantages over any class of our fellow-subjects, but rejoicing to live and work in happy accord with all for the common good, we beg to assure Your Excellency of our profound veneration for the institutions and the throne that have guarded these privileges so many centuries, and an implicit and humble trust in God that the Empire and the Kingdom that has so long kept His truth will by that truth still preserve its liberties and its foremost place in civilization, in science, and in art among the nations of the earth.

We can further assure Your Excellency that we most cheerfully obey the injunctions of the inspired word to pray for kings and for those that are in authority over us. Recognizing that faithful and good rulers are one of the greatest blessings of a people, sincerely do we pray that Your Excellency may be long with us to maintain our institutions, enlarge our intelligence, and confirm our virtue; and that yourself and the noble Countess of Dufferin may long live to exert as salutary an influence, and to enjoy as sincere affection and respect in other sections of the empire as is the cordial tribute of the people in our beloved Dominion.

We have the honor to be Your Excellency's faithful servants.

Signed in behalf of the Conference,

M. BENSON, *Secretary*.

JAMES RICHARDSON.

ADDRESS

OF THE M. E. CHURCH IN CANADA TO THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF CANADA.

TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH IN CANADA, IN CONFERENCE ASSEMBLED :

Dear Brethren: The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada would greet you most affectionately in the name of our common Lord.

It is a great satisfaction indeed to congratulate you upon the success in the blessed work of the Gospel, that has made it necessary or expedient for you to divide your extensive field of labor, and place it under the administration of several Annual Conferences; at the same time preserving your unity, and, we trust, increasing your efficiency, by this Representative and Legislative Council of the whole Church. The glory be unto God the Father, and to Christ His Son, the Great Head of the Universal Church, and to the Holy Spirit, the Guide and Sanctifier, that you have been so prosperous in this land, in the presentation and diffusion of the holy doctrines of the Bible, and in the establishment and maintenance of so many institutions that are at once an evident benefit to the country and a blessing to our kind.

We rejoice with you because your work is the work of our Lord, and your growth is the growth of his kingdom and dominion among the sons of men. You preach the doctrines in which we implicitly trust, and which we joyously proclaim; and you rest in the faith and hope that inspire our enterprises and animate our hearts.

As under the good hand of our God in the onward movements of your Church, you are now assembled for deliberation on most weighty matters, we earnestly pray that the pure and peaceable wisdom from above may be given you in large measure; not only that your Conference may be harmonious and happy in the joy of the Gospel, but also that in the settlement of your affairs you may be directed to such measures and invigorated to such action as shall bring glory to God, and hasten on the complete triumph of Christian

truth in our beloved Dominion, and in all lands in which your voice may be heard, and your influence, through the everlasting Gospel, be exerted.

That you may the better understand our minds in this Christian and fraternal salutation, and be better assured of our purpose and thoughts of love toward you, in our Lord Jesus Christ, we send to you two of our beloved brethren—the Rev. James Gardiner, our Missionary Secretary, and the Rev. Michael Benson, the Secretary of our General Conference,—whom we commend to you in the sympathy and godly respect of our common Methodism; who will tell you of our state, showing you how God has prospered us, and speak to you words of brotherly regard, inviting you to an interchange of fraternal relations and salutations, after the manner of the Churches in Apostolic times.

Praying that you may abound more and more in holiness, in the spiritual power of a pure Gospel, and in fruitfulness of labor for the salvation of men, we subscribe ourselves your brethren in the reproach and glory of the Cross.

By order of the General Conference, Napanee, September 4th, 1874.

JAMES RICHARDSON, *President.*

MICHAEL BENSON, *Secretary.*